(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how different statistics have been submitted by the World Health Organisation in Geneva during October, 2000 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Indian tobacco industry is in the private sector. This sector provides employment to about 7.5 million families. In India, about 63056 farmers grow Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco. Farmers growing Non-FCV tobacco are estimated around 4 lakhs.

(b) Statistics on the number of labourers/workers engaged in the tobacco industry and the number of farmers growing tobacco in India have not been furnished to the World Health Organisation during October, 2000.

Sick and closed industrial units in Gujarat

1469. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick and closed industrial units in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons who have become unemployed; and

(c) the measures taken for employment of retrenched workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to the RBI, 223 non-SSI units have been identified as sick/ weak in the State of Gujarat having outstanding bank credit of Rs. 1234.95 crores as at the end of March 1999.

Labour Bureau, Shimla, under the Ministry of Labour collects information on industrial closure. 69 industrial units have been reported closed under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 from 1997 to 1999. As a result of closure of 69 industrial units, 2,187 workers have been affected.

(c) The Government has approved Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad having Employee Assistance Centres in ten cities in Gujarat under Counselling and Retraining Scheme. These centres conduct survey of the workers opting for voluntary retirement and those rationalised from the organised sector. The centres provide counselling and retraining assistance to such workers for their redeployment.